

County of San Luis Obispo
Department of Public Works
County Government Center, Room 206
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408
www.slocounty.ca.gov/PW.htm

Water Quality Report

Lopez Project

System Number 4010022



2015



*Public Works will be a valued community partner enhancing
quality of life for our fellow county residents.*



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YOUR 2015 WATER QUALITY REPORT

The County of San Luis Obispo is pleased to present this annual report describing the quality of your drinking water. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State standards. We sincerely hope this report gives you the information you seek and have a right to know. ***Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.***

YOUR WATER SUPPLY

Source water for Lopez Project comes from Lopez Lake, located approximately 10 miles east of Arroyo Grande. The lake is part of a 67 square mile watershed and has a storage capacity of 49,200 acre-feet, or about 16 billion gallons of water. The water is conveyed 3 miles by pipeline to the Lopez Terminal Reservoir adjacent to the Lopez Water Treatment Plant (WTP). The water is held in the Terminal for over a month before entering the WTP. During that time, particles settle out of the water and exposure to sunlight helps reduce the risk of bacterial and viral contamination from human contact in Lopez Lake.



A watershed sanitary survey was conducted in 1996 and updated in 2001, 2005, 2010 and 2015. A Drinking Water Source Assessment was also performed in 2001. The survey and assessment identify potential contaminating activities in the watershed and assess their impact on the raw and treated water quality. Lopez Lake and Lopez Terminal Reservoir were found to be the most vulnerable to wastewater generation at the Lopez Recreation Area, livestock near the reservoirs, and a roadway that bisects the Terminal Reservoir. To date, these activities have not adversely impacted the WTP treated water quality. A copy of the survey or assessment can be found at the San Luis Obispo County Public Works Department website at <http://slocountywater.org/WQL/Drinking%20Water%20Source%20Assessments/Lopez%20Project%20DWSAP.pdf> or by contacting the Water Quality Laboratory at (805) 781-5111.

A portion of your water comes from the Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA) Polonio Pass Water Treatment Plant. The CCWA was formed to treat and deliver water from the State Water Project to San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties. Source water for the Polonio Pass plant comes from the California State Water Project operated by the California Department of Water Resources. The State Water Project consists of 21 different reservoirs throughout the State. Water is conveyed to the Polonio Pass WTP by the Coastal Branch Aqueduct completed in 1997. Additional information on the State Water Project can be found at <http://www.water.ca.gov/swp/swptoday.cfm>.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. State Board regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain minimal amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

LOPEZ PROJECT NEWS

The update to the 2010 Urban Water Management Plan is on track to be completed by June 30, 2016 and submitted to the Department of Water Resources per California Water Code 10610. Lopez Lake is being operated under the Low Reservoir Response Plan which was adopted by the Board of Supervisors in December 2014 and implemented April 2015 due to the low water levels in the reservoir. The Plan will remain in effect until the reservoir levels rise above 20,000 acre feet. Initial actions of the plan require all Zone 3 participants to reduce water requests by 10% and to reduce downstream releases to the creek for agriculture use by 9%. Should reservoir levels continue to drop, further reductions in water deliveries will be required.

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CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Design and purchase of components for a sixth filtration rack at the WTP was completed with final installation and testing anticipated for the Fall of 2016. This sixth rack addition will provide increased reliability for water treatment and production at the water treatment plant.

ANNUAL FREE CHLORINE DISINFECTION SWITCH

You may have noticed in January, February and November 2015 an increased chlorinous smell in your drinking water. This was due to a temporary change in disinfectant to free chlorine as part of a normal disinfection practice used in the drinking water industry.

Free chlorine is a stronger disinfection process than the blended chlorine treatment the County typically uses. This annual switchover of disinfectants helps ensure water remains free of potentially harmful bacteria. This is considered a best management practice in the water industry.

Chlorination is the most common disinfectant used in the drinking water industry. Most customers will not need to take any precautions as the water remains safe to drink by Federal and State drinking water standards. If you have any questions or concerns about your drinking water, please contact us at (805) 781-5111.

GEOSMIN AND MIB

In August and September, customers may have experienced unusual taste and/or odor in their potable water. The Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA), which operates the Polonial Pass Water Treatment Plant, detected elevated levels of MIB (2-methylisoborneol) from the plant as well as from samples collected in the Department of Water Resources (DWR) raw water pumping facilities and canals. Geosmin was also detected, but not at an elevated level. Included below are questions and answers about Geosmin and MIB.

What are Geosmin and MIB?

Geosmin and MIB are naturally occurring compounds typically produced by some species of blue-green algae as metabolic by-products. Typically, blue-green algal blooms occur during the warm summer months and also during drought conditions and low-lake levels. In order to produce Geosmin and MIB, the blue-green algae require light, nutrients, and sometimes a substrate to attach to.

What Problems do Geosmin and MIB Cause?

Geosmin produces an earthy odor, MIB produces a musty odor, and together they cause earthy-musty taste and odor problems. Much of the Geosmin and MIB produced is retained within the blue-green algae cells. In some cases, blue-green algae can be carried into drinking water treatment plants where the cells have the potential to rupture during treatment processes and subsequently release the Geosmin and MIB into the water stream. Also, some treatment methods carried out in lakes or canals can actually cause cell ruptures and create rather severe, but short term, spikes of Geosmin and MIB.

The CCWA temporarily modified its treatment process to minimize the potential of cell lysis (cell rupture) before the algae cells (if present) could be removed by filtration. The

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treatment plant operation will always be operated in a way to ensure the public health standards are achieved.

How is the Taste and Odor Problem Treated?

Once produced, the earthy-musty tastes and odors are difficult to remove and destroy. Application of powdered activated carbon (PAC) is a proven MIB treatment method. This method was put into place at the CCWA treatment plant in the summer of 2014. The Lopez WTP also uses PAC as needed.

At home, consumers can refrigerate an open chilled pitcher of water to minimize the taste and odor caused by MIB and Geosmin.

How Frequently do Geosmin and MIB Occur?

MIB and Geosmin is produced every year in a seasonal pattern, with most occurrences in the warm summer or fall months.

How Long Could the Taste and Odor Problem Last?

The taste and odor outbreaks can last up to several weeks depending on the amount of blue-green algae present, the success of in lake or in canal treatments, and the water conditions contributing to blue-green algae blooms.

At What Levels do Consumers Detect the Taste and Odor Problems?

Sensitive individuals can detect Geosmin and MIB between five and ten parts per trillion. One part per trillion is equivalent to one drop in enough water to fill the Rose Bowl. However, consumers not previously exposed to Geosmin and MIB taste and odors may be more sensitive.

Although Geosmin and MIB are typically present in low concentrations in many reservoirs and canals throughout the State Water Project, production to levels causing taste and odor issues occurs most frequently in the summer months. DWR has developed an early warning monitoring program. DWR also provides in lake and in canal treatments with copper sulfate. Although the earthy-musty taste and odor caused by Geosmin and MIB is unpleasant, it is simply an aesthetic problem and not a health hazard.

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WATER QUALITY

The following tables are a snapshot of drinking water constituents that were detected in your water in 2015, unless otherwise noted. The State allows us to monitor for some substances less than once per year because the concentrations do not change frequently. Some of our data, although representative, may be more than one year old. The presence of these substances detected in water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. For questions about this data, please contact the Water Quality Laboratory at (805) 781-5111.

REGULATED CONTAMINANTS WITH PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS

Constituent (Units)	MCL, TT, RAL, or [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) or [MRDLG]	Lopez WTP		Delivered Water Distribution ¹		Violation?	Potential Source of Contamination
			Range detected	Average detected	Range detected	Average detected		
Plant Filter Performance								
Turbidity (NTU) ²	TT = 95% of samples each month ≤ 0.1 NTU	N/A	99.9 – 100%	99.9	N/A	N/A	No	Soil runoff
	TT = 1 NTU	N/A	0.010 – 0.235	0.032	N/A	N/A	No	
Microbiological								
Total Coliform Bacteria (Present or Absent)	Not to exceed 5.0% of monthly samples positive ³	(0)	-----	ND	-----	ND	No	Naturally present in the environment.
Heterotrophic Bacteria (CFU/mL)	TT = <500	-----	ND - 30	3	ND – 26 ND - 9100	ND 53	No	Naturally present in the environment.
Inorganic								
Aluminum (ppm)	1	0.6	ND – 0.024	0.020	ND - 76	36	No	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes.
Arsenic (ppb)	10	0.004	4.2 – 6.5	5.3	-----	4.2	No	Erosion of natural deposits

¹ Distribution results are listed on the second line, where data is available.

² Combined filter effluent turbidity monitoring is used as an indicator of filtration performance.; See section **"MONITORING REQUIREMENT NOT MET FOR TURBIDITY"** on page 10

³ Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present.

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Constituent (Units)	MCL, TT, RAL, or [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) or [MRDLG]	Lopez WTP		Delivered Water Distribution		Violation?	Potential Source of Contamination
			Range detected	Average detected	Range detected	Average detected		
Barium (ppm)	2	2	-----	0.029	-----	0.031	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	RAL = 1.3	0.3	-----	ND	-----	0.091	No	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride (ppm)	2	1	-----	0.499	-----	0.447	No	Erosion of natural deposits.
<i>Radioactivity</i>								
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	15	N/A	1.42-1.59 (2013)	1.51 (2013)	0.028-3.15 (2013)	1.25 (2013)	No	Erosion of natural deposits
<i>Disinfectant Residuals and Disinfection Byproducts</i>								
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80 (LRAA) ⁴	-----	25.3 – 34.2	29.8	27.2 – 47.6 28.9 – 95.9	37.4 59.8	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	60 (LRAA)	-----	15.8 – 26.5	21.4	12.8 – 57.6	37.5	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
Chlorine (ppm)	MRDL = 4.0 as Cl ₂ ⁵	MRDL = 4.0 as Cl ₂	1.31 – 5.08 ⁶	2.48	1.5 – 3.67 0.17 – 3.54	2.26 1.97	No	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment.
Chlorite (ppm)	1.0 (delivered and distribution avg.)	0.05	0.37 – 0.92	0.68	0.03 – 0.79 0.165 – 0.713	0.47 0.390	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
Chlorate (ppb)	RAL = 800	-----	600 – 693	650	90 - 1200 140 - 1440	500 510	Reporting ⁷	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
Chlorine Dioxide (ppb)	MRDL=800 as ClO ₂	[800]	ND – 340	ND	ND – 480 60 – 290	ND 150	No	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment.

⁴ Compliance is based on the locational running annual average of samples.

⁵ The MRDL for chlorine is based on a running annual average of distribution system samples.

⁶ Free chlorine levels were increased at the water treatment plant to meet disinfection levels at the plant. Chlorine levels were lower as the water entered the Lopez distribution system (Delivered Water).

⁷ See section "[NOTIFICATION LEVEL EXCEEDED FOR CHLORATE](#)" See page 10

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Constituents with a Secondary Drinking Water Standards (Aesthetics)

Constituent (Units)	MCL, TT, RAL, or [MRDL]	Lopez WTP Range detected	Average detected	Delivered Water Range detected	Average detected	Violation?	Potential Source of Contamination
Aluminum (µg/L)	200	ND – 24	20	ND - 76	36	No	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes.
Chloride (mg/L)	500	-----	27.2	-----	41.3	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits.
Color (CU)	15	-----	3		3	No	Naturally occurring organic materials.
Copper (ppm)	1	-----	ND	-----	0.091	No	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Odor - Threshold (TON)	3	ND – 4	2	ND – 3	2	Yes ⁸	Naturally occurring organic materials.
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	1600	-----	840	-----	820	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits.
Sulfate (mg/L)	500	-----	130	-----	125	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence.
Distribution Turbidity (NTU)	5	-----	-----	0.04 – 0.65	0.10	No	Soil runoff.
Total Dissolved Solids (mg/L)	1000	-----	570	-----	550	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence.

⁸ Increases in odor have been associated with algae blooms. During times of increased algae blooms and odors the algae is controlled with algaecides and the odor is reduced to acceptable levels by treating water with powder activated carbon.

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Constituents with No MCL

Constituent (Reporting units)	Lopez WTP Range	Average	Delivered Range	Average	Potential Source of Contamination
Alkalinity as CaCO ₃ (ppm)	170 - 290	260	150 - 282	230	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence.
Calcium (ppm)	-----	90	-----	74	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence.
Hardness as CaCO ₃ (ppm)	-----	390	260 - 410	320	Generally found in ground and surface water.
Magnesium (ppm)	-----	40	-----	38	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence.
pH	8.08 – 8.34	8.21	8.17 – 8.37	8.29	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence.
Sodium (ppm)	-----	34	-----	44	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence.

The Utilities Division Water Quality Laboratory provides laboratory and technical services to support the beneficial management of water and wastewater for the present and future residents of San Luis Obispo County.

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KEY TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CFU/ml – Colony Forming Units per milliliter.

CU – Color Units.

DWR – Department of Water Resources

LRAA – Locational Running Annual Average. An average of quarterly samples from a particular monitoring location for a period of one year.

MCL – Maximum Contaminant Level. The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.

MCLG – Maximum Contaminant Level Goal. The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

mg/L – Milligrams per Liter.

mL – Milliliter.

MRDL – Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level. The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

MRDLG – Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal. The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

MPN/100mL – Most Probable Number of organisms in a 100 mL sample.

NA – Not Analyzed.

ND – Not Detected. Contaminant is not detectable at testing limit.

NTU – Nephelometric Turbidity Unit.

pCi/L – picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity).

PDWS – Primary Drinking Water Standards. MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements. PDWS pertain to the following: Filtration Performance, Microbiological Contaminants, Inorganic Contaminants, Radioactive Contaminants and Disinfection Byproducts, Disinfection Residuals, and Disinfection Byproduct Precursors.

PHG – Public Health Goal. The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHGs are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency.

ppb – parts per billion, or micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$).

ppm – parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L).

Primary MCL – Maximum contaminant level for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible.

RAL – Regulatory Action Level. The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Secondary MCLs – Maximum contaminant level for contaminants to protect the taste, odor, or appearance of the drinking water. Contaminants with secondary MCLs do not affect health at the MCL levels.

TON – Threshold Odor Number.

TT – Treatment Technique. A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

$\mu\text{S/cm}$ – microsiemens per centimeter (unit of specific conductance of water).

$\mu\text{g/L}$ – Micrograms per Liter.

USEPA – United States Environmental Protection Agency.

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MONITORING REQUIREMENT NOT MET FOR TURBIDITY

The Lopez Water Treatment Plant did not meet a monitoring treatment technique for turbidity on February 23 and February 28, 2015. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what you should do, what happened, and what we did to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor your water for turbidity (cloudiness). Turbidity has no health effects. However, high levels of turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. The Lopez Water Treatment Plant filters your water through membrane fibers capable of filtering out microorganisms and particulate matter larger than 0.1 micron in size. Each day, a membrane integrity test (MIT) is performed on each of our five racks containing thousands of membrane fibers. The membrane integrity test (MIT) is a direct method of monitoring the integrity of each membrane fiber by pressurizing the system to check for leaks.

Each of our membrane racks containing these fibers are equipped with continuous online turbidity monitoring equipment to provide an “indirect” integrity test of each rack. If turbidity monitoring indicates there are two sequential 15 minute turbidity readings exceeding an alarm set point of 0.15 NTU, per our permit, we are required to shut down the membrane rack and initiate an MIT on the rack.

In February, there were two times one of our racks exceeded the 0.15 NTU set point for two consecutive 15 minute turbidity reads. Staff did not shut down the rack and perform the required MIT. The daily compliance MITs were performed and indicated no failure with the membrane fibers on this individual rack that day or the following day.

To correct this problem, staff has been notified of the monitoring failure and the requirements specific to membrane filtration. Additional programming changes will be implemented to automatically shut down the rack and notify operators to perform an MIT.

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. You do not need to boil your water or take other actions.

CHLORATE ABOVE THE DRINKING WATER NOTIFICATION LEVEL

The Lopez Project water system had chlorate levels in the distribution system above the drinking water notification level. Although this was not an emergency, as our customer, what happened and what we did to correct this situation. The Zone 3 governing board was notified of the chlorate notification level being exceeded.

We routinely monitor for the presence of chlorite and chlorate as drinking water contaminants. Water sample results on 11/9/15 showed chlorate levels as high as 1,440 ppb in the water distribution system. This is above the notification level of 800 ppb.

What is a Notification Level?

The California State Water Resources Control Board - Division of Drinking Water establishes health-based advisory levels, called “notification levels”, as needed. Notification levels are used to provide

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information to public water systems and others about certain non-regulated chemicals in drinking water that lack maximum contaminant levels (MCLs).

Monitoring for chemicals with notification levels is not required for Lopez Project. The County of San Luis Obispo monitors for chlorate because it is a disinfection byproduct formed by the use of chlorine dioxide. Chlorine dioxide is used as a primary disinfectant at the Lopez Water Treatment Plant.

What should I do?

This was not an immediate risk. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. The chlorate notification level was established in 2002. Chlorate is considered noncancerous, but may contribute to pituitary or thyroid gland issues. This chemical may be given a maximum contaminant level at some time in the future once more information becomes available on the possible risk to human health.

If you have other health concerns about the consumption of this water, you may wish to consult your doctor.

What happened? What was done?

Lopez Project normally uses chloramines for secondary disinfection in the water distribution line. On November 2, Lopez Project conducted an annual switchover of disinfectant to free chlorine. Free chlorine is a stronger disinfectant than chloramines. This annual switchover helps to ensure water mains remain free of potentially harmful bacteria.

Due to the high levels of free chlorine being injected at the Lopez Water Treatment Plant, chlorite was converted to chlorate in the distribution line. Chlorate levels returned to normal level when the system returned to the use of chloramines in the distribution system.

Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps USEPA and the State Water Resources Control Board to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the contaminants need to be regulated.

DRINKING WATER AND HEALTH RISKS

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. USEPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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While your drinking water meets the federal and state standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. The arsenic standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency continues to research the health effect of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water typically comes from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The County of San Luis Obispo is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-425-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

SOURCE WATER PROTECTION TIPS FOR CONSUMERS

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides – they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community, or visit the Watershed Information Network's How to Start a Watershed Team.

OPERATIONS

The Lopez Project is assigned ten operators who, like all operators who work for the County, are certified by the California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). Our operators are knowledgeable professionals who have many years of experience. They are dedicated to maintaining an excellent water system and providing you with the best quality water possible.

Operators conduct weekly inspections of the reservoirs, clearwell, tanks, and distribution system, collect samples, and analyze some parameters in the field to ensure a safe and reliable water supply. In addition, the SWRCB routinely inspects the facilities, operating procedures, and water quality monitoring records to verify compliance with state and federal regulatory requirements.

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WATER QUALITY LABORATORY

The Department of Public Works Water Quality Laboratory provides laboratory services for most County operated water and wastewater systems. The lab is certified by the State of California's Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP). To remain certified by the State, the lab is required to annually demonstrate capability by analyzing unknowns for each constituent. In addition to analytical work, the laboratory also provides sampling, compliance reporting, watershed monitoring, and technical support services for Public Works systems.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

The San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors meets every Tuesday (except the 5th Tuesday in a month) in the board chambers located in the County Government Center at 1055 Monterey Street, San Luis Obispo. The Board holds budget hearings during the month of June. Interested persons should check the Board's agendas for specific dates. Agendas for all Board of Supervisors meetings are posted in some County libraries, the County Government Center, and on the Board of Supervisors internet web site at www.slocounty.ca.gov.

The public can also participate in the Zone 3 Advisory Group meetings. This group is composed of representatives from the Five-Cities area. The group meets at 6:30 pm on the 3rd Thursday of January, March, May, July, September, and November. Information on meeting times and places are published in the newspaper or can be obtained from the San Luis Obispo County Public Works Department.

CONTACT INFORMATION



Internet

USEPA Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water

<http://water.epa.gov/drink/index.cfm>

California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/publicwatersystems.shtml

San Luis Obispo County Public Works Department

www.slocounty.ca.gov/PW.htm

SLO County Water Quality Laboratory

805-781-5111

PW_SLO_WQL@co.slo.ca.us

<http://slocountywater.org/WQL/wql.html>

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